Blood-Stream Infection (CDC)

From: wesley.j@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 6:41 PM
To: Blood-Stream Infection (CDC)
Subject: Recomendations for Draft Guidelines for Prevention of Intravascular Related Infections

To: Center for Disease Control

I am an Adjunct Professor of Surgery at the Fineberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, and have been involved with Nutrition Support and Infection Control during my entire career.

Your guidelines are very helpful, although I have concerns about your recommendations in line 1608/1609 of the summary: 4. Minimize contamination risk my wiping the access port with an appropriate antiseptic (chlorhexidine preferred) and accessing the port only with sterile devices [330,333,335]. Category 1A

There is little to no scientific evidence to support the "preferred" recommendation to use chlorhexidine to disinfect access ports "with an appropriate antiseptic." The references cited, 330,333,and 335, do not support this recommendation.

Isopropyl alcohol is widely used and proven to be an effective disinfectant for synthetic surfaces including access ports. The Kaler JAVA paper shows equal equivalency for alcohol and chlorhexidine with alcohol.(1).

I am not aware that FDA has ever approved or cleared any products containing CHG that have as an indication the disinfecting of IV access ports.

The three studies cited do not mention or support the use of chlorhexidine to disinfect IV access ports. Two other studies cited by the document evaluated needleless devices and used only alcohol (not chlohexidine) as part of their protocol (refs 342 and 345).

Therefore there is insufficient evidence to recommend chlorhexidine as a preferred method for antisepis of access ports--especially a Category 1A recommendation. The draft guidelines should be revised so that the final document contains no reference to a preferred status for chlorhexidine.

My recommendation : Minimize contamination risk by cleaning catheter hubs or injection ports with an alcoholic chlorhexidine preparation , or 70% isopropyl alchohol , and accessing the hub or port only with sterile devices.

(1) Kaler W and Chinn R: Successful Disinfection of Needleless Catheter Access Ports: A Matter of Time and Friction. JAVA,12: 140-142,2007.

Thank you for your attention.

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